CLAIMS:

1.   A network aware mobile device, comprising:

a transceiver (16), which identifies one of a plurality of networks (18, 20, 22) with which the transceiver can communicate;

memory (15) which stores information associating networks with operations which can be performed using the transceiver; and

means for executing (40) the operations when communication with one of the plurality of networks is permitted.

2.   The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the transceiver is (16) included in one of a telephone, a personal digital assistant, and a portable computer.

3.   The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of networks includes one or more of a wireless local area network (20) and a cellular network (18).

4.   The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory (15) stores a user-programmable table, which associates transceiver operations with network preferences.

5.   The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the means for executing (40) includes automatic execution of the operations (14).

6.   The device as recited in claim 1, further comprising a function (38) for determining an identity of a network connected to the mobile device.

7.   The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory (15) includes a list of network preferences associated with one or more operations and further including an associated time such that if the associated time elapses a next network preference is employed to perform the operation.

8.   The device as recited in claim 1, further comprising a notification feature which notifies a user that information is available for download, wherein the information is automatically downloaded when communication is established with a network selected by the user.

9.   The device as recited in claim 8, wherein the network selected by the user is selected from a list of network preferences associated with one or more operations and further including an associated time such that if the associated time elapses a next network preference is employed to perform the operation.

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10.   A method for operating a network aware mobile device, comprising the steps of:

providing a device (102) that is aware of a network in which the device is located;

configuring the device (104) to perform a selected operation in a predetermined

10   network;

when the predetermined network can be communicated with, permitting the operation to be performed (110).

11.   The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of configuring the device

15   (104) includes assigning operations to networks.

12.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the step of assigning operations to networks (104) includes storing operation assignments in a table.

20   13.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the step of assigning (104) includes assigning networks to operations in an order of priority such that if a first network is unavailable a next network is employed to perform the operation.

14.   The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of permitting the

25   operation to be performed includes automatically performing (110) the operation once communications with an appropriately selected network have been established.

15.   The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of identifying the network or networks (108) that the device is in.

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16.   The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the step of identifying the network or networks includes identifying the network the device is in (108) by signaling networks to identify themselves.

35   17.   The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the step of identifying the network

or networks includes identifying the network the device is in (108) by receiving network identification signals.

18.   The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of permitting the operation to be performed includes notifying a user (109) that information is available for retrieval and automatically retrieving the information upon establishment of communication with a user selected network.

19.   The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the step of automatically retrieving includes assigning networks (107) to operations in an order of priority such that if a first network is unavailable a next network is employed to perform the operation.